

MASTER
GRIMSTON
HIS
SPEECH,
AT THE
COMMITTEE

Sitting in the *Guild-hall* on *Wednesday*, the 5. of *JANVARY*;

Concerning the Breaches of the Priviledges of *Parliament*, by breaking open the Chambers, Studies, and Truncks, of the Lord *Kimbolton*, and the rest of the members of the House of COMMONS,

By his MAJESTIE accused of High Treason, *Anno 1641.*



London, Printed 1642.

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MASTER GRIMSTON

His Speech at the Committee, sitting
in the *Guilball* on *Wednesday* the 5. of *January*,

concerning the breaches of the Priviledges of

Parliament, by breaking open the Chambers, Studies, and Trunks of the Lord *Kimbolton*,

and the rest of the Members of the House of

Commons, by his Majestie accused

of High Treason, *Anno*,

1641.

Master Speaker,

THere is no Courts of Iudicature within this Kingdome of *England*, that have severall Rights and Priviledges appertaining and belonging unto them, and have such power and authority in the severall Iurisdctions of the same Offices, that they may call to an Account, Prosecute and bring to Iudgement the infringers and breakers of the same.

Of all these Courts there is none, yea put them all together, they are not of such power and jurisdiction, but inferior and subject to the Ordinances and Statutes of the High Court of Parliament.

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Master Speaker, of such awfull predominance is the very name of a Parliament to this Nation, that it strikes with terrour and despaire all such evill Doers, as are Malefactors in the State: On the contrary side, it cheeres and comforts the drooping spirits of men, groaning under the burthen of Tyranaicall oppression, inflicted on them, unjustly, and maliciously, by unmercifull and wicked men, That have usurped unto themselves Places and Offices of Power and Authority, both in Church and State.

Master Speaker, This great and high Court is not onely the powerfulest of all other Courts whatsoever, but the prudentest and wisest, made and compacted onely of Men, sound in Religion, well learned, but ripe in their judgements, contracted from all parts of this Kingdome, Elected and chosen with the free consent of the whole Body Politicke of the Kingdome. This great and high Councell, is not onely of such Power and Wildome, but endowed and attended with the most and greatest Priviledges thereof, that no onely the meanest of his Majesties Subjects, but the greatest Personages of the Kingdome are in danger of infringers of the same, to be called in question, and by them punished; Therefore give me leave, *Master Speaker*, to speake somewhat of the Priviledges in particular, incident and appertaining to this wise Senate, and in speaking thereof I shall observe these three particulars.

1. First, the Rights and Priviledges belonging to the same, in the free Votes and Iudicature thereof.

2. Second

2. Secondly, the Rights and Priviledges belonging to the Power and Iurisdiction thereof.

3. Thirdly, the Rights and Priviledges in the continuance thereof, being freely Called and assembled by his Majesties Royall Authoritie, not to be dissolved, or broken off till all things agitated therein for the good both of Church and Comon-wealth, be fully concluded and determined.

First, Master *Speaker* concerning the Priviledges of a Parliament belonging to the free Votes and Iudicature thereof, I shall observe these particulars.

First, to speake freely without interruption, or contradiction in any Debate, Dispute, or Argument, upon any busines agitated in the same, being a Member thereof, I conceive to bee one Priviledge of a Parliament.

Secondly, not to bee questioned, or any such free Dispute, Argument, or Debate, to be taxed, or accused for the same, either during the free Sitting thereof, or after is another Priviledge of Parliament.

Thirdly, freely to give vote, judgement, or sentence upon the reading of any Bill, to be made a Law, or any Bill, either of Attainder, or other Charge against Delinquents, and Criminous persons of the State at their trial upon the same, is a third Priviledge of Parliament.

Fourthly, to defend and maintaine the free Vote, Iudgements, and sentences of the whole House, by Protestation, Remonstrance, or other Declaration, if not consented unto, or opposed by the House of Lords, is a fourth Priviledge.

Fiftly, for any member of the House, not to bee accused of any crime, or impeached for Treason, by any person whatsoever, during the continuance of the Parliament, for things done in the same, without legall accusation, and prosecution of any such member, by the whole house, is another priviledge of Parliament.

Sixtly, not to bee apprehended upon such impeachment, or arrested by any Officer, or to have upon such accusation, their Chambers, Truncks, and Studies broken open, their bookes and writings seized upon, without consent or warrant of the whole Parliament, is another priviledge of the same: And thus much Master *Speaker*, shall suffice to be spoken concerning the Priviledges, and Rights of Parliament, pertinent to the subject, of which I am to speake: I come now to the second thing I proposed to your audience, which was the Rights and Priviledges belonging to the power and jurisdiction of the Parliament: In which I shall observe these particulars.

First, to consult and consider of what lawes are fit to be made, and enacted in this Kingdome, for the good government thereof, is one priviledge belonging to the power, and Jurisdiction of this high Court.

Secondly, to justifie, and abrogate, repeale, make void, to ratifie and confirme, establish and maintaine Lawes, Statutes, and Ordinances, made and enacted by preccedent Parliaments, by Councels of State, or other Courts of judicature, is a second priviledge pertaining to the power and jurisdiction of the Parliament.

Thirdly,

Thirdly, to give Subsidies, to raise taxes, to impose loanes, and other charges upon the Subject, is another priviledge belonging to the power and jurisdiction of the Parliament.

Fourthly, to accuse or impeach any incendiaries or delinquents in this Kingdome, of any crime notorious tending to the prejudice of his Majesty, or any of his loyall Subjects, whether it be for Treason, or otherwise, bee they members of the Parliament, or no : is another priviledge belonging to the power and Jurisdiction of the Parliament.

Fiftly and lastly, to proceed and bring to judgement such persons so accused or impeached, for any crime whatsoever, is another priviledge belonging to the power and jurisdiction of this Court. And thus much of the rights and priviledges belonging to the power and jurisdiction of a Parliament.

And now *M. Speaker*, I come to the last thing I mentioned to you, concerning the priviledges belonging to the continuance and free sitting, till all things be concluded of, for the good government both of Church and State : In which I shall also observe these particulars.

First, that for a Parliament, when freely called, and assembled by Royall Authority, not to be, to debate, or argue any one particular busines, appointed by any person whatsoever, is one priviledge belonging to the continuance of a Parliament.

Secondly, not to breake off, or dissolve a free Parliament, untill all the grievances, and oppression of all His Majesties loyall subjects, bee fully redressed,

desired, and remedied is a second priviledge belonging to the continuance of Parliament.

Thirdly, not to breake off or dissolve a Parliament, till all incendiaries and delinquents in the State bee brought to condigne punishment for their crimes.

Fourthly and lastly, to accuse or impeach any member of the Parliament, thereby to hinder and interrupt the legall proceedings thereof, in the waighty affaires of the Common-wealth, is another priviledge belonging to the continuance of a Parliament.

And thus having briefly declared to you, the power and jurisdiction of a Parliament, above all other Courts of judicature in this land, the wisdom and policy of a Parliament above all other Councils, the rights and priviledges of a Parliament in respect of the free votes and judicature thereof, the power and jurisdiction thereof, and the free continuance thereof: I humbly leave to the consideration of this House, whether the accusation of these Gentlemen accused by his Majesty, and the illegall breaking open (upon this their accusation) of their Chambers, Truncks, and Studies, bee not a breach of some of the priviledges of Parliament, which I have mentioned unto you.

F I N I S.